

## HOUSE BILL NO. 569

INTRODUCED BY GUTSCHE, HARRIS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MONTANA AT-HOME INFANT CARE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS IN LIEU OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE; PROVIDING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. At-home infant care program -- definition.** (1) There is an at-home infant care program for low-income families in which a parent provides full-time child care for the family's infant under 2 years of age ~~THAT WILL BE FUNDED CONTINGENT UPON AVAILABLE RESOURCES THROUGH STATE, FEDERAL, IF A SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION IS ADDED TO THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OR BY BUDGET AMENDMENT IF FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL OR PRIVATE SOURCES.~~ Subject to subsection (2), the family may receive a payment in lieu of child-care assistance if the family meets the following eligibility requirements:

(a) The family is not receiving financial assistance under Title 53, chapter 4, parts 2 and 6.

(b) The family has not previously received a total of 24 months of at-home infant care assistance under this section.

(c) The family is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

(d) The family has fulfilled the following work requirements for 1 out of the 3 months prior to entering the program:

(i) 120 hours a month for two-parent families, which may be the contribution of one or both parents;

(ii) 60 hours a month for single-parent families;

(iii) 40 hours a month for single-parent families who are attending postsecondary education or training.

(e) A parent must be 18 years of age or older or, if under 18 years of age, have attained an equivalency of completion of secondary education, as provided in 20-7-131, or a high school diploma.

(f) A parent must meet any additional requirements as provided in administrative rules.

(2) A parent who is under 18 years of age and attending high school or a program for equivalency of completion of secondary education, as provided in 20-7-131, may receive benefits for months outside of the regular school year.

